minor and sub-head/detailed heads for projecting and accounting of pensions paid to Para Military Forces. Hence, amount separately spent on Para Military Forces per annum on this account is not available.

Problems of Ex-Army Personnel

4714. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the formula of reservations for SCs/STs, and BCs/MBCs in selections is applied for promotions from the post of soldier to Major;

(b) if so, the detailed particulars thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) which State contributes men more in all categories in India area-wise; and

(d) what are the norms to be followed by the district Ex-Army Men Board in dealing with the problems of Ex-Army Personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The selection to all ranks in the Armed Forces is open to all eligible Indian nationals, irrespective of caste, creed, community and religion. As such, there is no reservation for recruitment or for promotion in the Army.

(c) Recruitment to the Army from various states is based on the percentage of Recruitable Male Population of each State. Based on the formula, the intake in the Army is maximum from Uttar Pradesh.

(d) The functions of Zila Sainik Boards are broadly as under:

(a) Registration of ex-Servicemen and issue of Identity Cards.

(b) Maintain a register of war widows, and those disabled in action with a view to ensure their welfare.

(c) Promote and maintain, under the guidance of the concerned Rajya Sainik Board, welfare measures in the District, such as Rest House for ex-Servicemen, old age pensioners Homes, vocational and other training facilities, etc.

(d) Assisting ex-Servicemen and next-of-kin of deceased service personnel in settlement of pension and other retirement benefits.

(e) Assist ex-Servicemen in forming and setting up cooperatives for their self-employment.

(f) Granting financial relief to ex-Servicemen and their widows from funds at their disposal.

(g) Assisting ex-Servicemen in representing their cases with the local administration/Defence authorities.

Rocket firing in Rajouri and Poonch Sectors

4715. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistani troops have been firing rockets in Rajouri and Poonch sectors to harass the people of these border districts for their refusal to support subversive activities;

(b) if so, the number of Times Pakistani troops fired rockets in Rajouri and Poonch districts in the last 12 months;

(c) the damage caused by these firings in terms of men and materials; and

(d) the reaction of Government to these unprovoked firings and were these facts brought before the international fora to expose Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) There have been incidents of firing of rockets by the Pakistani troops/terrorists in Rajouri and Poonch sectors. During last 12 months, 22 such incidents in Rajouri sector and 33 in Poonch sector have been reported, which resulted in injuries to some of our